



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1995

No. 165

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. LONGLEY].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 24, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable JAMES B. LONGLEY, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] for 5 minutes.

BULK SALES OF SPEAKER GINGRICH'S BOOK

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, they say that people who live in glass houses should not throw stones. Well, it might also be advised that people who throw stones at glass houses should not move into glass houses.

In 1988, when then-Congressman NEWT GINGRICH led the call for an investigation into then-Speaker Jim Wright, GINGRICH claimed that Wright had violated House rules by arranging for bulk sales of a book he had authored.

At the time, GINGRICH alleged that the bulk sales were being used by Wright to get around limits on lecture fees. Now, according to a story that in yesterday's New York Daily News, Speaker GINGRICH is profiting from some bulk sales of his own.

The Daily News story reveals that Speaker GINGRICH is wracking up his own bulk sales of his book, "To Renew America." According to records, bulk sales of the Gingrich manifesto have been made to both political organizations which he has personal ties to and to organizations which have business before Congress. In one case, a company purchased 10,000 dollars' worth of Mr. GINGRICH's book. That is a lot of books.

What is wrong with that, you may ask? Plenty, according to experts on congressional ethics. In fact, Richard Phelan, the independent counsel who led the ethics investigation into the Wright book deal, said yesterday that Speaker GINGRICH's bulk sales raise a lot of questions. When asked to compare the charges against former Speaker Wright with the latest allegations against current Speaker GINGRICH, Phelan said: "There is a definite parallel."

Among the organizations that have purchased the Speaker's book in bulk, are the Rev. Jerry Falwell's Liberty University in Virginia and the Georgia Public Policy Center. Both organizations are run by Gingrich political allies and both purchases were made just prior to GINGRICH attending events sponsored by the groups.

When former prosecutor Phelan was told of one case where the bulk sales were made, just prior to a speech by GINGRICH, he said: "It could be a quid pro quo for the speech and this is precisely what we got Wright on. No, no, no, Mr. Speaker."

No, no, no, Mr. Speaker, indeed. The latest twist in the Speaker's troublesome book deal with Rupert Murdoch

only serves to underscore the need for an outside counsel to investigate the ethics charges against Mr. GINGRICH. As the Speaker himself said in 1988, when urging an outside counsel to investigate Mr. Wright:

The rules normally applied by the Ethics Committee to an investigation of a typical Member are insufficient in an investigation of the Speaker of the House, a position which is third in the line of succession to the Presidency and the second most powerful elected position in America. Clearly, this investigation has to meet a higher standard of public accountability and integrity.

The standard of public accountability and integrity cannot be expected to be upheld when the investigation into the highest ranking member of the U.S. House of Representatives is being conducted by people who are politically indebted to him.

It is hard to say "no" to the Speaker of the House. Republicans on the House Ethics Committee feel pressured to defend the Speaker's book deal, just as Republican organizations feel pressured to purchase the Speaker's book.

Without an independent, outside counsel to investigate the allegations against Speaker GINGRICH, we will never lift the ethical cloud that hangs over the House.

MEDICARE PRESERVATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I have just concluded a number of town hall meetings in my district. I must say the response from my constituents was very favorable. My district is the sixth oldest district in America of Medicare recipients. Of the freshmen who came to the 104th Congress, I am No. 1 in seniors in my district.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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